

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:JCDORRANCE:RLW

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R 192228Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY SUVA BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186755

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FM

CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI SEP 19 REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L//N00000//

TAGS: PFOR, FR, AUS, NZ, UK, FJ, WS

SECSTATE FOR EA/ANP

SUBJ: 13TH SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE

REF A. CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI 181247Z SEP 73

1. (C) STRONG SENTIMENT THAT COOK/FIJI RESOLUTION REPRESENTED FAIT  
ACCOMPLI DISCOURAGED CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN AND ISLAND DELEGATIONS FROM  
REOPENING NUCLEAR TESTING ISSUE DURING SEPTEMBER 19 SESSION. HOWEVER,  
CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN MOYLAN MOVED ONE HELPFUL AMENDMENT AT END OF  
DAY'S  
SESSION, WHICH WAS INCORPORATED WITHOUT OPPOSITION. THE AMENDMENT  
CHANGES THE FINAL SENTENCE OF THE RESOLUTION TO DIRECT THE "CONFERENC  
E

CHAIRMAN" INSTEAD OF SPC "SECRETARY GENERAL" TO COMMUNICATE SENSE OF  
THE CONFERENCE TO UNITED NATIONS.

2. (C) THIS CHANGE AT LEAST PRESENTS SLIM POSSIBILITY THAT SESSION

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MIGHT SOMEHOW AVOID ACTION ON RESOLUTION, SINCE NO ACTION REQUIRED OF

SPC. HOWEVER, RESOLUTION WILL STILL CONSTITUTE PART OF REPORT OF CONFERENCE TO BE SUBMITTED TO SESSION, AND IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT FRANCE CAN ACCEPT REPORT WITHOUT CHALLENGE.

3. (C) SESSION RULES PROVIDE THAT PROCEDURAL MATTERS ARE DECIDED BY MAJORITY OF VOTES CAST, WHILE DISAGREEMENT AS TO WHETHER MATTER PROCEDURAL OR NOT DECIDED BY TWO-THIRDS OF ALL VOTES (WEIGHTED VOTING SYSTEM PROVIDES FOR 21 VOTES). THUS, ASSUMING U.S. (4 VOTES) AND UK (3 VOTES) ARE ONLY DELEGATIONS WITH POSITIONS IN DOUBT, U.S. ABSTENTION OR NEGATIVE VOTE WOULD CAUSE TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO FAIL. ON OTHER HAND, U.S. COULD ABSTAIN ON PROCEDURAL MATTER VOTE, AND PERMIT MOTION TO PASS. ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION IS THEREFORE TO VOTE FOR CONSIDERING MATTER AS PROCEDURAL, THEN ABSTAINING ON PROCEDURAL MOTION (REQUIRING ONLY MAJORITY OF VOTES CAST), PERMITTING MOTION TO PASS. THIS WOULD AVOID VOTING DIRECTLY ON MOTION AND AT SAME TIME AVOID BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE BY CONFERENCE FOR SUPPRESSING RESOLUTION. SUPPRESSING RESOLUTION AT THIS POINT WOULD OF COURSE HAVE LITTLE PRACTICAL EFFECT AS FAR AS CONFERENCE DELEGATIONS CONCERNED, SINCE MAXIMUM PUBLICITY HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AND CAN BE ASSUMED TO HAVE BEEN A PRIMARY OBJECTIVE.

4.(C) U.S. DELEGATION HAS AS YET NO FIRM INFORMATION ON POSITIONS OF OTHER PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS ON THIS ISSUE, AND CONTINUES TO REGARD AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND THREE ISLAND GOVERNMENTS AS IN FAVOR OF RESOLUTION.

5. (C) CONFERENCE NOW EXPECTED TO CONCLUDE ON SEPTEMBER 20, AND PLANS TO CONVENE SESSION HAVE BEEN ADVANCED TO 0830, SEPTEMBER 21 (1830, SEPTEMBER 20 WASHINGTON TIME). ALTHOUGH PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING FRANCE, DESIRE TO DELAY CONSIDERATION OF NUCLEAR TESTING RESOLUTION UNTIL THE LAST, THIS MAY BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE PROCEDURALLY. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE HELPFUL IF GUIDANCE REQUESTED IN REFTTEL COULD BE FURNISHED BEFORE OPENING OF SESSION. LANGE SENDS.

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UNQUOTE  
RUSH

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